

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, March 25, 2010

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL** President Wasco called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Present were: Vice President Villareal, Nielsen, Soglin, and Biggs. Absent were: James and Dailey Staff: Franz (Member James arrived shortly after the beginning of the meeting)

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Minutes of Regular meeting February 25, 2010 were approved as corrected M/S Biggs/Villareal Unanimous

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3-A. **A PRESENTATION BY YIU-KEI LOUIE – ALAMEDA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ON THE CITY OF ALAMEDA’S PARATRANSIT PROGRAM AND UPCOMING PARATRANSIT SHUTTLE SERVICE** - Action-20 minutes

Mr. Louie explained that the City’s Paratransit program is funded by the Sales Tax passed by Measure B. Alameda County receives the funds from the State and distributes them to fund city programs. Alameda uses its funds to provide transportation programs for seniors and disabled residents. (Mr. Louie passed out a pamphlet describing the programs). The programs now in place include a taxi service that provides return trips from medical appointments. Most participants use East Bay Paratransit to provide their trip to the appointment, but these need to be scheduled in advance. Because it’s hard to determine exactly how long the visit will be, the taxi service allows them to receive a ride home shortly after the visit is finished. The other major taxi program is the Premium Taxi Service which allows eligible participants to purchase \$5.00 taxi script for \$2.50. A Supplementary Paratransit Program complements the East Bay Paratransit (EBP) Program by providing service during hours when EBT is not operating.

Mr. Louie then explained the new Paratransit Shuttle Service, which will begin on April 6th, is like A.C. Transit service, with a route that makes regularly scheduled stops at designated locations throughout Alameda. This program will also serve Alameda seniors (62+) and disabled residents. (He passed schedules out for the new program) Stops include Mastick Senior Center, Alameda Hospital, Kaiser, and Towne Center. While some residents wanted the route to include Oakland, they are keeping it in Alameda for now.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Louie informed us that:

Mastick, Cardinal Point, and Anne Diment were some of the locations they conducted meetings to help determine the best routes for the program. They also took into account the recent A.C. Transit route changes. The service will be available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 to 4, making 1 hour loops. The vehicle they are using can accommodate 16 passengers, but larger vehicles can be brought in if rider-ship demonstrates a need for them.

Nine companies responded to the RFP and the carrier chosen was also recommended by San Leandro, who is using their services. They will use rider feed-back and input from Jackie Krause at Mastick to measure the success of the program. Press releases, flyers, and banners will be used to advertise the program, and there will be a kick off celebration at Mastick at 9:30 on April 6th.

President Wasco thanked Mr. Louie for his presentation, adding that this will be a great benefit for seniors that have difficulty getting around.

3-B. **PRESENTATION BY PRESIDENT WASKO REGARDING 100 BEST COMMUNITIES**

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD, AND A REQUEST FOR THE BOARD TO SUPPORT
ALAMEDA'S 2010 APPLICATION FOR THE AWARD-**

President Wasko first thanked Member Nielsen for giving an "Introduction to the 100 Best Communities for Young People award" program at the last meeting in her absence.

She then provided an update on preparing Alameda's application for the award, first highlighting the march 22nd community forum, which was attended by 60+ advocates for youth, including Members Nielsen and Biggs. Others in attendance included Mayor Johnson, councilmember Gilmore, Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, AUDS Board members Tracy Jensen, Ron Mooney, and Niel Tam, APD Sgt. Wyeth, and student from a number of our schools. Many of those were invited, but could not attend asked to be "kept in the loop" as to the progress of the application and how they might help.

She then took the Board through highlight of a Power Point, starting with an explanation that this America's Promise Foundation project was started 16 years ago by Colin Powell. The purpose of the foundation is to keep kids in school, and get them graduated with the skills that enable them to be happy, multiple years research on what they call their 5 Promises.

The application is 27 pages long, plus some data pages, and includes 5 stories on how Alameda's support of youth has impacted lives: 4 of those from youth, and 1 from an adult.

The 1st draft of the application will be available at the April 21st meeting of the Youth Collaborative, and the hope is to finalize it at their May 19th meeting. The application is due June 1st.

The School Board and City Council both have support of the application on their agendas for upcoming meetings. President Wasko asked the Board to engage in a brief discussion to determine how the Board would like to lend their support for the application. She then took the Board through the Power Point presentation, a copy of which was provided to Board members.

Suggestions from the Board included:

Writing a letter of support, and also forwarding the letter to Congressional Delegations, working to identify youth and an adult, and helping identify youth and an adult whose lives have been positively impacted by the programs, support, and advocacy that Alameda provide for our youth.

A motion was made to "write a Letter of Support for Alameda's 100 Best Communities for Young People application".

M/S Villareal / Dailey Unanimous

(A copy of the application submitted on June 1 will be available at the June 24 Board meeting)

3-C. NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS –

The Nomination of Officers was tabled and will be put on the agenda for the June meeting.

3-D. WORK GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS -

Assessment and Awareness Workgroup – Nielsen\

The Dental Clinic opening has been delayed, but with funding from Alice Lai0Bitker (and the City of Alameda) the project is still on track.

The 100 Best Communities data collected by President Wasko will be incorporated with Jeanne Kettle's report data when the workgroup begins the Needs Assessment process.

Alamedans Together Against Hate Workgroup – Villareal

A celebration of the 1st Harvey Milk day is scheduled for May 22nd at the College of Alameda. Councilmember Matarrese is helping organize the program, which will also be supported by the Council, AUSD and others. Sean Cahill is the contact person, and more information will follow a request for the Board to support the celebration will be put on the April agenda.

Sister City Workgroup – Wasko

Workgroup members, the Mayor, and Council members attended a dinner at the Chinese Consul Generals home. We were graciously received, and they hope we will travel to China again. There are plans for an Art Exhibit of photos of Wuxi, and a reception for a Delegation from Wuxi. If there are enough people interested in making the trip, a group from Alameda may travel to China in August, along with Alice Lai-Bitker.

4. BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA - Information - 10 minutes

President Wasko announced that former Board member, Stewart Chen is on the Alameda County Human Relations Commission, and had suggested that we have a combined meeting with them. Staff will contact Stewart and the county staff person to discuss a meeting, possibly this summer.

Member Soglin announced that AIA is holding its Annual Youth Film Festival at the historic Alameda Theater on May 6.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - Information - 3 minutes per speaker

Angie Watson, an Alameda parent with a child in the College of Alameda Childcare program informed the Board of the announced closing of the College's program as of July 1, due to budget cuts. The parents in using the program have come together to determine ways that it might be kept open, including exploring possible grant opportunities. Ms. Watson asked the Board for any kind of support they might be able to provide, such as writing a letter, identifying grant sources, or providing other ideas. She explained it is a very unique, diverse site that serves low- to moderate-income families.

Being an Oral Communications item, the Board was limited to a brief discussion and could not take any action. A number of suggestions were offered, including speaking to other community colleges that were facing the same situation, some with success. There was a request to have the item placed on next month's agenda.

6. ADJOURNMENT

M/S to Adjourn James/Nielsen Unanimous 9:00

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Franz
Community Development Coordinator